

USDA Seeks Suggestions for Projects Funded by Section 10201 of the 2008 Farm Bill

From May 3 through June 18, 2010, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will be accepting suggestions for fiscal year (FY) 2011 projects to implement Section 10201 ("Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention") of the 2008 Farm Bill. As in previous years, the FY 2011 project spending plan will be organized around six goal areas:

1. Enhance plant pest/disease analysis and survey;
2. Target domestic inspection activities at vulnerable points in the safeguarding continuum;
3. Enhance and strengthen pest identification and technology;
4. Safeguard nursery production;
5. Conduct outreach and education to increase public understanding, acceptance and support of plant pest and disease eradication and control efforts; and
6. Enhance mitigation capabilities.

APHIS invites all interested stakeholders to submit suggestions for FY 2011 projects. Please note that the FY 2011 suggestion submittal and review process has changed from previous years. Detailed submission instructions and an explanation of the evaluation process are available on APHIS' 10201 Web page at www.aphis.usda.gov/section10201.

Background

Section 10201 of the 2008 Farm Bill directs the Secretary of Agriculture to make available Commodity Credit Corporation funds for early plant pest detection and surveillance, threat identification and mitigation of plant pests and diseases and technical assistance in the development and implementation of audit-based certification systems and nursery plant pest risk management systems. The five-year Farm Bill specifies that these funds be made available incrementally, starting with \$12 million in FY 2009, \$45 million in FY 2010 and \$50 million in FY 2011 and thereafter.

APHIS has provided the \$45 million in FY 2010 funding to more than 50 cooperators, including state departments of agriculture, universities, nonprofit organizations and USDA agencies, in support of more than 200 projects. APHIS is now requesting suggestions for projects supported by FY 2011 funds. Cooperators have one year to spend the funds they receive.

How to Submit a Suggestion

Visit www.aphis.usda.gov/section10201 for complete submission instructions, including a link to the FY 2011 suggestion form. All submitters must use this form. The Web page also contains an explanation of the evaluation process and criteria.

Key Dates

May 3, 2010: The FY 2011 suggestion submittal period opens.

June 18, 2010: The FY 2011 suggestion period closes.

June 21, 2010: The evaluation process begins.

July 13–15, 2010: The evaluation team meets to discuss suggestions and develop the first draft of the FY 2011 Spending Plan.

Mid-Sept. 2010 (tentative): Draft FY 2011 Spending Plan released.

Sept. 30, 2010: Approved projects are announced by the end of this fiscal year. Projects will be funded after Oct. 1, 2010.

Questions?

If you have any questions about the FY 2011 suggestions submittal and review process, please e-mail them to PPQ.Section.Farmbill-10201@aphis.usda.gov.

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